



# Town of Hopkinton

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – [www.hopkinton-nh.gov](http://www.hopkinton-nh.gov)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022 – 12:30 P.M.**

*Hopkinton Town Library*

**Members Present:** Andrea Folsom, Jim Fredyma, Ian Hart, Meredith Lee, Alexander Pooler, Steven Whitley  
**Public Present:** none  
**Staff Present:** Anna Wells

### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitley called the meeting to order at 12:39pm.

Mr. Whitley made a motion, seconded by Andrea Folsom, to allow Ian Hart and Meredith Lee to join the meeting remotely. There was no discussion.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Andrea Folsom	Yes
Jim Fredyma	Yes
Alexander Pooler	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes

**MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

### WELCOME

Before diving into the agenda, Mr. Whitley first extended a warm welcome to Alexander Pooler and thanked him for joining the Economic Development Committee. He stated that it is always beneficial to have new people join the committee from the community and looks forward to his input.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Andrea Folsom made a motion to approve the *Economic Development Committee minutes of August 25, 2022*. Jim Fredyma seconded. There was no further discussion.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Andrea Folsom	Yes
Jim Fredyma	Yes
Ian Hart	Yes
Meredith Lee	Yes
Alexander Pooler	abstain
Steven Whitley	abstain

**MOTION PASSED 4-0 with 2 abstentions.**

2. Jim Fredyma made a motion to approve the *Non-Public Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2022*. Andrea Folsom seconded. There was no further discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Andrea Folsom	Yes
Jim Fredyma	Yes
Ian Hart	abstain
Meredith Lee	Yes
Alexander Pooler	abstain
Steven Whitley	abstain

**MOTION PASSED 3-0 with 3 abstentions.**

## **PRIORITY PROJECTS**

### **1. Discussion of EDC Priorities**

Mr. Whitley engaged the Committee in a discussion of how EDC priorities are set and carried out. The group agreed that the Committee together sets the policy goals and guides the focus of the work of the Economic Development Director. All agreed that EDC meetings should focus on those broader priority goals and then allow the Director to work on details and implementation.

The Committee then engaged in a lengthy discussion about the connection between *community development* and *economic development*, agreeing that the two are inextricably related. The Committee agreed that investments in public spaces and infrastructure have direct benefits to the local economy, both by attracting businesses and their employees to the area, as well as attracting customers to shops. All members agreed that the EDC's work has thus far mainly focused on improving public infrastructure, and that was a deliberate and conscious decision for the early months of the new Economic Development Director's job. The Committee further acknowledged that the Economic Development Director's position is only part time, that there is much background/behind-the-scenes work that must be done, and that not all goals can be pursued at once. The committee also suggested that certain projects may be able to be handed off to other boards or committees. Ms. Wells agreed to explore that.

However, all present further acknowledged that more focus could be directed toward engaging with businesses who don't necessarily have a "Main Street presence," or who are perhaps not as connected or well-known in the community. The Committee and the Director agreed that over the next few months, she would develop materials regarding tax incentives and other helpful programs that are in place for commercial entities and arrange for in-person meetings with local business leaders to introduce herself, discuss their business goals and how the EDC can help, and explain the benefits already available to them.

### **2. Discussion re: Community Heart & Soul**

The Committee discussed engaging with CH&S and decided that they would revisit the idea in a few months.

### **3. Hopkinton Village Intersection *Complete Streets* Demonstration Project**

Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

### **4. Riverway Park & Contoocook Village Revitalization**

#### **a. Parking Lot Paving Update**

Ms. Wells informed the Committee that neither she nor the Public Works Department has been able to secure the granite curbing necessary to complete the project this fall. But the Select Board is aware of the desire to encumber the funds for the project from the 2022 budget and complete the project in the spring. Ms. Wells will also attempt to reserve the required curbing from a supplier.

- b. **Downtowns & Trails, UNH Extension** - Discussion tabled until the next meeting.
- c. **T-Mobile Hometown Grant** (due September 30)  
Ms. Wells will continue to work on this application to cover the costs of upgrades and renovations to Riverway Park.

## UPDATES

**Suggested Zoning/Land Use Regulation Changes for 2023 Town Meeting** - Ms. Wells updated the group that she has been in conversations with the Planning Director about zoning amendments the Planning Board may propose next year. Some of these may have economic development impacts, so she would like the EDC to be part of this discussion. The Committee will discuss this further at the next meeting.

At this time, Mr. Hart and Mr. Pooler left the meeting.

## OTHER

**Next Meeting Date(s):** Monday, September 19      5:30pm      @ Hopkinton Town Hall

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Whitley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Folsom. There was no discussion.

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Andrea Folsom	Yes
Jim Fredyma	Yes
Meredith Lee	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes

**MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm.